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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable CHRISTOPHER A. COONS, a Senator from the State of Delaware.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, the light of our lives, we lift our hearts to You in praise. May Your presence be felt today on Capitol Hill. There is no one like You, for You protect the weak from the strong and the poor from the oppressor. Give our Senators strength for today's journey. Deepen their trust in You, as You guide them by Your wisdom. As we anticipate the Fourth of July, remind us that true freedom comes from You. And, Lord, we ask Your special blessing upon our outgoing Senate page class.

We pray in Your liberating Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable CHRISTOPHER A. COONS led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. INOUE).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, June 29, 2012.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable CHRISTOPHER A. COONS, a Senator from the State of Delaware, to perform the duties of the Chair.

DANIEL K. INOUE,
President pro tempore.

Mr. COONS thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SMALL BUSINESS JOBS AND TAX RELIEF ACT—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 341, S. 2237.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 341, S. 2237, a bill to provide a temporary income tax credit for increased payroll and bonus depreciation for an additional year, and for other purposes.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I know Senators are anxious as to what is going to happen here today. The Republican leader and I have been in close contact the last several days. We are fortunate that we are now in a position to complete work today. We should be able to do it quickly. It all depends on the cooperation of Senators.

We actually know the House is planning to vote around 12:30 today. They could do it more quickly. They could do it as late as 1 o'clock. We have the ability, now that the papers have been filed over in the House, to act before they do, as we have done before. So we will have to see how the morning moves on.

We are working on a consent to have votes in relation to the transportation conference report this morning. I know Senators have called me and, I am sure, the Republican leader on a number of occasions. As soon as we have something firmed up, we will let everyone know.

HEALTH CARE DECISION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, yesterday the U.S. Supreme Court reaffirmed

that no family should live one illness or one accident away from bankruptcy. The Court decision is not a victory for Democrats or President Obama, it is a true victory for the American people. Let me give you a few reasons why that is the case, and just a few.

Since the act was signed by President Obama, more than 6 million young people have signed up for their parents' health plan. Why is that important? As most people know—in the Senate, at least—I am from Searchlight, NV. It is a very small community. Someone I care a great deal about was the assistant postmistress there. Her husband has been around town. They have been together for many years. They have a boy named Jeff. I can remember, when we first had our home in Searchlight, he would help us as a young boy, climbing up into a Joshua tree and putting up Christmas tree lights.

Well, he has grown past that. He was in college and doing quite well. He started getting sick. He had just turned 23. As embarrassing as it was, he had to go to a doctor to find out what was wrong. He had testicular cancer. That happened a matter of weeks after he was no longer on the insurance plan of his parents. They had no money. They were desperate to help their boy, and they did everything they could to help him.

He had two or three surgeries. His life was saved. It really put a dent in what limited savings they had. She worked part time in the post office. He had worked down at the Mohave generating facility, which closed. So they had limited means. It was very difficult on what savings they had been able to accumulate.

That will not happen anymore. He would have been able to complete college because the magic age is not 22 anymore, it is 27. So that is one thing, and 6 million young Americans have taken advantage of that. They will not have to have the problems Jeff Hill had. He is doing OK now. He recently

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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